

STATE URBAN MASS TRANSIT OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Statutory Reference: s.85.20

Administrative Rule: TRANS 4

- State funded program which began in 1974. The 1973 State Budget created this urban transit aid program to be administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.
- Appropriations to the State of Wisconsin are set biennially. Eligible project costs are limited to the operating expenses of an urban mass transit system, including labor, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, utilities, insurance, purchased transportation services, license fees and lease expenses. State appropriations are distributed according to the following procedures:

▶ Transit systems in the state are divided into four tiers as follows:

Tier A1: Milwaukee County Transit System

Tier A2: Madison Metro Transit System

Tier B: Systems in urbanized areas with populations between 50,000 and 200,000, plus Waukesha City, County systems and the City of Monona.

Tier C: All systems in urban areas with populations between 2,500 and 50,000.

*Each tier has a separate appropriation.

*Funds within each tier are distributed such that the combination of state and federal operating assistance covers an equal percentage of operating costs for all systems within a tier.

- **Recent Funding Levels:**

- ▶ 2001 - \$93,006,500
- ▶ 2000 - \$93,006,500
- ▶ 1999 - \$86,517,700

- **Eligible Applicants:** A local public body in an urban area served by an urban mass transit system incurring an operating deficit. A “local public body” refers to counties,

municipalities, towns, or transit or transportation commissions or authorities. An “urban area” means any area that includes a city or village having a population of 2,500 or more that is appropriate, in the judgment of the Department, for an urban mass transit system.

- **Eligible Public Transportation Service:** Transportation by bus, shared-ride taxicab, rail or other conveyance, either publicly or privately-owned that provides the public with general or special service on a regular and continuing basis.
- **Annual Application Cycle:** Applications due to WisDOT by November 15th for projects scheduled in the following calendar year. Applicants operating bus systems may request up to a 45-day extension of this due date.

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